

Message Text

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51

ACTION OES-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 IO-04 COA-01 DLOS-03 NSF-01

AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-04 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01

TRSE-00 FRB-01 CEQ-01 EPA-01 (ISO) W

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R 211042Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8861

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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PARIS AND STOCKHOLM FOR SCICOUNS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: THPY, TGEN, NO

SUBJ: DRILLING BY GLOMAR CHALLENGER OFF NORWEGIAN COAST

REF: (A) STATE 222899; (B) OSLO 4530

1. EMBASSY IS TRANSMITTING BY SEPARATE CABLE TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON DRILLING ACTIVITIES OF THE "GLOMAR CHALLENGER" ON THE VORING PLATEAU AND THE RESPONSE GIVEN ON OCTOBER 17 BY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY ULVESETH.

2. MINISTER ULVESETH CONCLUDES THAT THE DRILLING BY THE "GLOMAR CHALLENGER" ON THE VORING PLATEAU WAS CONDUCTED ON THE NORWEGIAN CONTENTAL SHELF AND THAT IT IS "REGRETTABLE" THAT PRIOR CONSENT WAS NOT OBTAINED FOR THESE DRILLINGS FROM THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT. ULVESETH ALSO EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF EQUIPMENT TO PREVENT BLOW-OUTS AND

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STATES THAT HE WILL ASK THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO STUDY THE

CASE TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT SHOULD BE RAISED WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE SOONER THIS INCIDENT IS FORGOTTEN THE BETTER. WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS INDICATED THAT HIS MINISTRY WILL BE LOATHE TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH US, IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THE LEFTIST SV MAY FORCE THE ISSUE, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S EVALUATION OF WHETHER WE NEED TO DRAW NORWAY'S ATTENTION TO OUR POSITION AS OUTLINED IN STATE 222899, AND IF SO, WHETHER WE SHOULD MAKE INFORMAL OR FORMAL DEMARCHE.

4. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS WHOLE QUESTION OF RIGHTS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WILL TAKE ON INCREASING IMPORTANCE IN NORWAY. IT IS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT WE BE ABLE TO ARGUE OUR POSITION AS COGENTLY AS POSSIBLE, IF COMPELLED TO DO SO, OR AT LEAST KNOW WHAT WE CAN OR SHOULD NOT SAY ABOUT AN ADMITTEDLY FUZZY AREA OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. SO LONG AS WE MUST OPERATE ON BASIS OF 1958 CONTINENTAL SHELF CONVENTION, WE WILL FACE ARGUMENTS ABOUT WHAT IS AN "EXPLOITABLE" DEPTH. SPECIFICALLY HOW DO WE ANSWER ARGUMENT USED IN STORTING INTERPRETATION THAT VORING PLATEAU IS WITHIN EXPLOITABLE DEPTH SINCE IT IS SUBSTANTIALLY MORE SHALLOW THAN THE 2000 METERS OFF NEWFOUNDLAND WHERE THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS LICENSED A COMMERCIAL FIRM TO DRILL. WHAT IS THE DEEPEST KNOWN OFFSHORE COMMERCIAL OPERATION IN THE WORLD AT THE PRESENT TIME? IN SHORT, WE NEED MORE DETAILED RATIONALE FOR U.S.POSITION SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF REFTEL THAT DRILLING SITES ON LEG 38 OF THE DEEP SEA DRILLING PROJECT WERE ALL OUTSIDE NORWAY'S CONTINENTAL SHELF JURISDICTION UNDER THE 1958 CONVENTION, AND THAT VORING PLATEAU SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS CONTINENTAL SHELF WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE 1958 CONVENTION.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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